FARMING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Fall 2004 Vol. 5, No. 1

GROWING

Strong Start for Environmental Farm Planning

The encouraging response from the province's agricultural community to a new program designed to enhance environmental awareness among producers is good news for B.C. municipalities.

By participating in the Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Program, farmers can identify current and potential environmental risks on their land. These tools help them implement broad action plans to mitigate any risks.

"There's a real benefit to municipalities whose farmers take part, particularly to communities with sensitive watersheds for domestic water or recreational usage," said Ron Bertrand who, along with Niels Holbek, co-ordinates the program on behalf of the British Columbia Agricultural Council (BCAC).

Bertrand said that if all agricultural producers within a municipality conducted and implemented an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), the risk of any negative environmental impacts from agriculture could be significantly reduced.

Producers also stand to enjoy many benefits by participating in the program. In addition to bolstering their reputations as providers of safe foods developed in an environmentally responsible manner, they are eligible for incentive funding from the federal government. Producers' gains and the peace of mind that comes with due diligence can be other benefits.

Environmental Farm Plans can be used by producers across the province to identify current and potential environmental risks on their land.

Since the program was launched, the response from agricultural associations representing producers in municipalities across B.C. has been enthusiastic. Already, the B.C. Cattlemen's Association, the B.C. Fruit Growers Association, the Certified Organic Associations of B.C., the Comox Valley Farmers' Institute and the Mt. Greenhorn Growers Association have signed up to deliver EFP programs to their members. Another 10 to 15 agreements are expected to be signed with other farm organizations soon.

The program is administered by the BCAC on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF), in co-operation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

AAFC has developed a national approach for developing and implementing EFPs across Canada. With a national EFP program, a set of governing principles will be used to ensure programs are administered consistently on a province-by-province basis. While the approach is national, its flexibility takes into

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Local Governments Promote Agriculture

The involvement of key stakeholders in planning is a prime component in ensuring the continuing growth of B.C. agriculture. Across B.C., local governments are rising to the challenge and are targeting agriculture through long-range planning to drive economic development in their communities. Some examples of recent projects and initiatives follow.

Comox-Strathcona Regional District

The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona (RDCS), Comox Valley Agricultural Plan (CVAP) is making good progress towards its goal of maintaining a thriving and sustainable farming sector through effective planning.

The Comox plan seeks to reduce conflict in agricultural and urban land use through buffering and by recognizing the status of existing farmlands. It also aims to facilitate the growth and expansion of local markets, the production and export of niche or specialty agricultural products, and partnerships between environmental and agricultural interests.

Jill Hatfield, MAFF Regional Agrologist and chair of the implementation committee, said the body's first project was developing a farm marketing guide for the valley and surrounding area.

"We partnered with the Comox Valley Echo newspaper to produce the *Comox Valley Growers Guide*, which was distributed to 35,000 North Island homes," Hatfield said. Funding for the project was supplied by implementation committee partner organizations and by the Small Lot Agriculture Futures Fund. Community Futures Development Corporation of Strathcona. "The guide was considered an unqualified success, and an important first step in tackling the remaining issues identified in the agriculture plan," she said.

According to Beth Rees, a planner with the RDCS and member of the implementation committee, the broad-based composition of the committee has been a major benefit to the process. "With all stakeholders represented, we're able to look at the action items and take a step-by-step approach to addressing each of the items," she said.

According to Niels Holbek, Agricultural Land Commission representative and chair of the plan's steering committee, "The Comox Valley Agricultural Plan recognizes the contribution that agriculture makes to the community as well as the importance of effective planning in minimizing land use conflict."

Central Okanagan Regional District

The Agricultural Advisory Committees (AAC) for the City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) organized a successful agricultural tour in June to showcase tourism and innovation in the Okanagan's agricultural sector.

The tour provided a useful opportunity for elected representatives, planning staff, advisory committees and others involved in planning decisions to get a first-hand look at the scope and diversity of local agriculture.

The idea for the tour sprang from a provincial workshop for AACs, sponsored by MAFF. "We got a lot of great ideas through this workshop, and it reinforced our understanding of the effectiveness of AACs," said Sandra Kochan, RDCO Agricultural Advisory Committee chair. "AACs play an important role in dealing with issues as diverse as water usage and runoff, minimizing problems arising in the urban-rural interface and the development of community agricultural master plans. They also act as advisors, advocates and communicators on behalf of the agricultural community and serve as important links between that community and local government," she said.

Stops on the tour included a nursery, a vineyard, a cherry orchard and the popular Casorso farm. Funding was provided by the City of Kelowna, the RDCO, the B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation and MAFF.

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

To better prepare itself for the growth that will come from the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)

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British Columbia is one of the best places on earth to live, work and raise a family, and nowhere is that more true than in our farming communities. Thanks to our moderate climate and unique topography, we'll find some of North America's finest producing agricultural land right here in B.C.

While our farmland is limited in quality, the same cannot be said for its quantity. It is finite, precious resource that must be protected and preserved. That's exactly the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve. But because much of our prime farmland is near urban centres, overlapping interests between farmers and their neighbours do occur. So it's vital for people to be well informed about each other's concerns.

BCAC's Right to Farm legislation is in place to help that process along. It provides future opportunities for local governments, while offering B.C. farmers the security in knowing they're free to implement the best practices they've mastered for:

Right to Farm legislation enables our farmers to contribute to environmentally sustainable production of safe, healthy food supplies from one of farm areas. It's also reducing local governments' and the province's concerns to work together to avoid issues and help our farmers overcome the imperatives of farming, and support the incredible contribution the industry makes to British Columbia.

Hon. John van Dongen
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Local Governments Promote Agriculture

is functioning a regional growth strategy (RGS) in the run-up to the Games.

The SLRD's plan will examine the role agriculture can play in the economy and food supply of the region. The SLRD has 4.5 per cent of its land, or 25,132 hectares, in the Agricultural Land Reserve. In 2001, however, only 15,153 hectares were being farmed. The 121 farms reporting had total farm capital of $86.4 million and total gross farm receipts of $5 million.

Village of Pemberton

Input from the local farming community and Village of Pemberton is playing a valuable role in helping the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District's (SLRD) plan for the land-use pressures created by the 2010 Olympic Games in neighbouring Whistler. The new AAC will help ensure that the needs of agriculture are considered in both day-to-day and long-term planning.

The creation of the AAC came as the SLRD, the Village of Pemberton and the local community people recognized the need to proactively plan for all community needs, including a strong and sustainable agricultural sector. "Our proximity to Whistler and anticipated land-use pressures as the 2010 Olympics approach make sound land-use planning of critical importance," said Lisa Griffiths a planner for SLRD Area C.

The AAC will provide comments and advice to the SLRD board on issues of agricultural importance such as bylaws, OCP reviews and amendments, applications under the ALC Act, impacts of recreation and transportation plans and impact of "edge" development.

District of Maple Ridge

The District of Maple Ridge strengthened its long-range planning capabilities this summer by teaming up with the MAFF to complete a land-use inventory of ALR lands within the district. The data will be incorporated into an agricultural GIS for use by both the district and MAFF.

Local governments across B.C. are targeting agriculture through their long-range planning to drive economic development in their communities.

"Effective land-use planning requires understanding of the spatial patterns of the area and the effects of different factors upon this pattern," said Chris Zabek, a MAFF Regional Agrologist. "GIS, in combination with land-use inventory data provides a useful tool in understanding and analyzing agricultural land use," Zabek said.

GIS data can be used to help track changes over time, assess the impacts of proposed policies and regulations, identify challenges and opportunities in the farm sector and improve the agricultural information available to decision makers. Maple Ridge is currently drafting a report based on the information collected during the land-use inventory.

City of Surrey

The City of Surrey is a pioneer in showcasing agriculture's important role in the local economy and raising the sector's profile among local decision-makers.

This summer, Surrey organized its 10th Surrey Agricultural Tour, an event that brought together elected officials, local government planners, representatives from the agriculture sector, business leaders and many other stakeholders and interested individuals.

Mike Bose, chair of the AAC, said the tour is important to the area because "it provides an opportunity for people representing many perspectives to meet, exchange ideas and discuss the future of agriculture within a rapidly growing urban region."

In Surrey, Bose said, "agri-business sectors make a significant contribution to the local economy, providing jobs and investment through a network of production, processing and support industries."

Among the operations visited on the tour were two milk producers, a vineyard, a salmon habitat restoration project and a beekeeping facility.

Cariboo Regional District

The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) continues to ensure that agricultural land has a healthy future in the area. To assist in its long-range planning, the CRD is currently reviewing the findings of reports examining ways to minimize land-use conflicts between agriculture and industrial land and on Agriculture and Forest Policy Review and Development.

CRD Senior Planner Rick Beauchesne said the land-use conflict report focused on a range of issues that will help the district keep agriculture in focus as its industrial land-use in the area expands. "We wanted to make sure that anything we're doing from a land-use perspective is not at odds with sustainable resource management," Beauchesne said.

Among the findings of the Agriculture and Forest Policy Review and Development report were that agriculture made a significant direct financial contribution to the area as well as provided spin-off benefits from agritourism. The report further suggested that the CRD take advantage of the MAFF's proposed Special Management Area initiative, which aims at developing protective policies in the urban-rural interface.

District of Kent

The District of Kent has established an Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) to enhance the prospects for the district's new economic and agriculture initiatives.

AAC members bring very diverse agricultural backgrounds and different perspectives to the table. "The AAC has helped agriculture be an important component of council's decision-making and has brought a new level of awareness of agriculture to the district," says Colleen Gingrich, AAC member.

Among the successful projects with which the AAC has been involved are local events such as the Buds and Blooms Festival and the farmers Against Hall Fair. In September, for the first time, local products will be sold to promote local farming and to generate revenues for the fair.

"An AAC is a must for every municipality," said Ken Swartzle, chairman of the AAC. "We all need the food and benefit from the jobs that agriculture provides."

The AAC also helped develop the successful Circle Farm Tour – a self-guided tour enabling residents and tourists to discover the benefits of living in and visiting an agricultural community. In addition, the AAC has spearheaded work in developing small lot agriculture in Kent. Future work includes the development of the first Agriculture Area Plan for Kent.

Did you know?

Grape production in the Thompson-Okanagan region grew 200% from 1996 to 2001.
The area now accounts for 25% of land devoted to grape production in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada: Census of Agriculture

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Strong Start for Environmental Farm Planning

account regional, geographical, and climatic differences.

"Environmental Farm Planning is a very important program for the council," said BCAC chair Dick Klein Gebbink. "In my view, farmers and ranchers have been doing a tremendous job of keeping our farmlands healthy and productive. With this assistance from the two levels of government, we will be able to do an even better job."

Producers can participate in the program by attending a workshop conducted by a farm group in their area. At the workshop, they will be introduced to the program and begin the process of completing a planning workbook that helps them to see what the environmental risks might be on their farms or ranches. EFP planning advisors, with assistance from BCAC, AAFC, MAFF and other partners, will provide producers with the necessary technical support to prepare their plans.

B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries John van Dongen said, "The EFP gives producers more sustainability tools to succeed in today's marketplace. I'm proud that the federal government and B.C. have established a working relationship with industry where industry leads the delivery of the program, an innovative model that other provinces may follow."

Through the EFP program, the federal government is investing more than $24 million, which includes financial support from Greencover Canada. The Province is providing more than $10 million of in-kind support.

Greencover Canada is a five-year, $110-million Government of Canada initiative aimed at helping producers improve grazing land-management practices, protect water quality, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Geoff Hughes-Games, Provincial Soil Specialist in the ministry's Resource Management Branch, said the availability of the EFP program means "farmers can look at their operations through an environmental filter, make any necessary changes and be assured that their operations will enhance sustainability and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment."

Once producers have completed their EFPs to a standard acceptable to the advisor, they can apply for financial assistance. The program will pay between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the eligible costs of implementing their plans. A producer can receive a maximum of $30,000 from the EFP program. The fi nal expires on March 31, 2008.

For more information on The Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Program, please contact:
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ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The British Columbia Agricultural Council, in co-operation with Agriculture Agri-Food Canada and BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, is committed to making sure that the Environmental Farm Plan process in B.C.:

- is driven by producers;
- encourages voluntary participation;
- assures EFP confidentiality; and
- encourages producers to implement their EFP action plans by providing funding that is directed to support on-farm actions to reduce agri-environmental risks.

By adhering to these principles, the Environmental Farm Program in B.C. strives to:

- improve the sustainability of the province's agricultural industry;
- recognize producer efforts to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- improve farm profitability;
- improve awareness;
- enhance marketing opportunities;
- improve the response to environmental incidents through contingency planning;
- demonstrate on-farm due diligence;
- reduce the need for additional environmental regulations; and
- improve relationships with environmental agencies.

Agricultural GIS Sharpens Farming Focus for B.C. Municipalities

Many municipalities across B.C. are committed to preserving and planning for agriculture in their communities. One of the many ways the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries supports these efforts is by providing detailed geographic information system (GIS) data to local governments to help them plot the future of agriculture in their communities.

Communities already use GIS to help manage a wide variety of urban planning, servicing and public safety needs. The introduction in recent years of the Farm Practices (Right to Farm) Protection Act and some special amendments to the Local Government Act have created new planning opportunities in farming areas, and many local governments are currently engaged in a review of their plans, policies and regulations that affect agriculture. Particularly when looking at land use within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), local planners have found it beneficial to take advantage of the province's land use inventory expertise.

Since the ministry launched its land-inventory program in 1990 with a successful pilot project in Pitt Meadows, many local governments have taken advantage of the resource. Many local governments have incorporated ministry-provided GIS data, and land-use inventories are also in progress in several other areas.

In the City of Surrey, planners have been putting ministry-provided GIS data to good use. "We found the ministry's land use inventory data extremely useful," said Terry Hoff, a long-range planner in Surrey's planning department. "We were really impressed with the level of detail, particularly for crops."

Hoff said the data from the ministry lets the department prepare a detailed analysis of land uses by different types. "It gives us a way to know what sort of land use is occurring on different properties," he said. "Situations may change over time," he said, and the GIS data helps us up-to-date on the current picture. The ministry's experience in conducting these inventories in many municipalities has resulted in a system that provides benefits to everyone concerned," Hoff said. "It's a win-win situation."

Many other municipalities apply ministry-provided GIS data in their long-range agricultural land use planning, said Karen Thomas, land use agrologist with the ministry's Resource Management Branch. "Access to the information is very helpful when municipalities are making decisions on a range of issues affecting agriculture," Thomas said. "Planners can bring detailed agricultural data images up on screen to produce maps to show council how many farms are in dairy or other commodities."

Elaine Anderson, a planner for the Township of Langley, says Langley has used the agriculture information for a number of projects. "One of the ways we used the information was as a base for conducting a survey which was part of our Equestrian Study," said Anderson. Langley planners have also used GIS information to prepare reports on the township's annual farm tour and to other reports to council, she said.

In addition to enhancing their knowledge of farming areas, local governments can use GIS to identify opportunities for greater land use compatibility and determine the impact of proposed land use policies and regulations on farming activities.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH COMPLETED AGRICULTURAL LAND USE INVENTORIES

1. Abbotsford
2. Burnaby
3. Chilliwack
4. Delta
5. FVRD (McConnell Creek Hatzic Prairie)
6. Kent
7. Langley
8. Maple Ridge
9. Pitt Meadows
10. Richmond
11. Surrey
12. Comox Strathcona (Comox Valley)
13. Central Kootenay (Creston Valley)
14. Kelowna
15. District of Salmon Arm
16. Salmon River Watershed (District of SalmonArm, Thompson Nicola (TNRD) & Columbia Shuswap (CSRD)

Co-operation Ensures Okanagan Cherries Enjoy a Bright Future

Growing export sales, new varieties and support from the B.C. and local governments have made cherries an increasingly important fruit-tree crop across the Okanagan. And cherry farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and local governments are working to together to ensure the industry – the No. 2 tree-fruit crop in the Interior – continues to have a bright future.

One of the many ways the ministry works with cherry farmers is by providing expertise on a variety of pest-control techniques. This year, for example, the ministry worked with cherry farmers to reduce bird damage by introducing falcons and hawks. "It was pretty successful," said Christine Dendy, a Kelowna cherry farmer and owner of Dendy Orchards Ltd. "For the right type of orchard, it has strong potential to significantly increase bird control," she said.

At the local government level, the ministry is active in helping resolve farm-practice complaints. Carl Withler, a ministry resource stewardship agrologist, said "the ministry works with planners and councils to ensure bylaws and OCP's allow and encourage agriculture."

In addition, said Withler, the ministry co-operates with the federal government in the introduction of the Environmental Farm Plan, a program designed to help farmers identify current and potential environmental impacts on their land and implement a broad action plan to mitigate any risks.

B.C. cherries are being enjoyed in a growing number of new international markets.

Cherry farmers have found it useful to maintain close links with local government, particularly on rural-urban interface issues and on bylaws governing pest control devices. With the support of the ministry, farmers' concerns are being heard by municipal planners, although as Dendy said, "Many cherry farmers are concerned when they see new housing subdivisions going up adjacent to their orchards."

The main reasons for the rapid growth in cherry production have been new export market growth, the development of later-season varieties and improvement in quality. Taiwan and the U.K. are very strong markets, but Germany, France, the Netherlands and other European countries are becoming important new destinations for Okanagan cherries.

Dendy Orchards was a pioneer in on-farm packing, which has played a major role in helping the industry expand into new markets. "On-farm packing was the key that opened new doors for us," Dendy said. "If you want to send decent cherries overseas, you have to be able to maintain their quality right through the delivery network," she said.

The Okanagan boasts one of the top horticultural research establishments in the world. The Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Summerland provides the research infrastructure to keep Okanagan growers at the forefront in fruit growing technology. The BC Fruit Growers Association's wholly owned Okanagan Plant Improvement Co., located at the research station, develops new varieties of tree fruits and berries.

Okanagan fruit growers are leaders in new environmentally friendly crop protection methods. They are developing sterile insect release technology for one of the world's worst apple and pear pests – the codling moth.

The ministry has offices in Kelowna, Vernon and Oliver to serve the Okanagan fruit industry. Services from these offices include food safety and quality, environmental sustainability and resource development, farm environmental plans, liaison on local government, risk management, industry competitiveness and market development.

Did you know?

British Columbia has about 60% of all land in Canada devoted to sweet cherry production.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Agritourism Co-operation Brings Benefits to Producers and Communities

With the emergence of agri-tourism and direct marketing as the newest shining stars in B.C.'s expanding tourism portfolio, agriculture producers and government are working together to ensure the sector's continued success.

Indeed, consumer trends sweeping the globe have created an exciting opportunity across B.C. for diversified farming operations to supplement their incomes. Some producers have on-farm stores and processing facilities for their products, some offer tours to school children and commercial tour companies and others hold harvest and festivals.

Agritourism in B.C. has been growing steadily, supported by consumers looking for a different tourism experience.

Agritourism in B.C. has been slowly developing since the early 1980s, but the emergence of a new province-wide organization, the BC Agritourism Alliance (BCATA) has helped boost the energy and raise the profile of this important industry.

Strong interest in this growing industry has many municipal councils working closely with their farm communities to develop policies and bylaws which will allow the industry to develop its full potential, while identifying and resolving potential conflicts such as noise and traffic.

In the municipality of Central Saanich, for example, a task force has been established in conjunction with BCATA to look at developing policies and guidelines for the industry in that community. By partnering with Central Saanich, the BCATA is hopeful a model can be developed for use in other areas of the province.

Janet Docherty, chair of the BCATA, said the alliance is in the process of successfully developing a province-wide model. "We're making good progress," said Docherty. "Currently, we're receiving feedback from across B.C. on the range and scope of agritourism in different parts of the province."

Docherty is keenly aware of the growing role of agritourism in B.C. As co-owner and operator of Mertolaki Cidermakers Inc. in Cobble Hill, she has first-hand experience of the beneficial impact of agritours. "When we started," she said, "our initial model was selling to outside accounts instead of having consumers come to the farm. Now, we continue to serve outside clients but the focus has shifted to consumers coming here to learn about cidermaking and have a different tourism experience."

People and Docherty are looking for different tourism opportunities. "They want to be more involved," she said. Mertolaki also uses the area's popularity with visitors to highlight foods and artists from the local community through a regular schedule of events. "It's been terrific for our business, and people walk away from a tour knowing a lot more about agriculture on the Island and our community," she said.

Al Gatzke, owner and operator of Gatzke's Farm Market in Oyama, is another firm believer in the future of agritourism and direct marketing. Gatzke, who is also a councillor for the District of Lake Country and the chair of its Agricultural Advisory Committee, said there's no doubt that "the farmer's net income goes up through value-added and direct marketing."

Under the old model, Gatzke said, farmers would get a small percentage of the retail value of the production, which affected a range of issues, including the number and type of employees a farm could support. "Agritourism returns a higher percentage of the consumer dollar to the operator," he said, noting that most of the money that comes to a farm from agritourism or direct marketing stays in the local community.

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Did you know?

At 70%, British Columbia had the largest population increase of any Canadian province from 1971 to 1996. The population of Abbotsford, Delta, Langley, Richmond and Surrey, the major blueberry growing area in British Columbia, grew 360% during the same period.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

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Bird Control Brings Industry and Local Governments Together

Without protection, a crop can be stripped by a flock of starlings in just a few hours.

As B.C.'s production of blueberries, cherries and grapes expands, producers and local governments are learning to work together to reduce the damage caused by starlings, robins, crows and other birds to these valuable crops.

Today, farmers use many types of visual and audible devices to scare away birds, which can strip an entire crop in a only few hours. The most successful program to reduce crop damage is an integrated approach with a variety of scare techniques. Moving the equipment and varying the tactics improves the longevity of the scare effect. Other options such as exclusion netting, trapping pest birds and using trained falcons are also in use.

Audible devices, however, often result in noise complaints from neighbours. Propane cannons, which make a loud gunshot-like sound, are widely used, but they also generate the most noise complaints, many of which come to local government bylaw enforcement officers.

There are several examples of successful teamwork among producers and local government to help resolve these noise complaints. The District of Pitt Meadows, for example, developed a noise bylaw in the early 1980s using a collaborative approach between residents, farmers, and local and provincial governments. Pitt Meadows has updated its bylaw over the years and continues to work with a committee of growers to resolve and reduce complaints.

The B.C. Blueberry Council has hired a grower liaison officer to educate growers in the Lower Mainland about bird control programs and encourage them to follow guidelines on the use of propane cannons and other audible bird scare devices. Some local governments forward blueberry farm noise complaints directly to the B.C. Blueberry Council for investigation.

The City of Surrey amended its noise bylaw in the summer of 2003 to include specific regulations on bird scare devices. Surrey continues to work with the B.C. Blueberry Council to investigate and resolve complaints. The number of complainants dropped to two in 2004, and Surrey has yet to issue any tickets for noise complaints.

Propane cannons are used to scare birds.

The Corporation of Delta also amended its noise bylaw this spring to include bird scare devices and enacted it as a farm bylaw under Section 917 of the *Local Government Act*. Delta forwarded two complaints to the B.C. Blueberry Council for investigation in 2004. No follow-up was required in either case.

"Most farmers comply when they are made aware of the guidelines for using the device, but the noise bylaw provides extra incentive," said Geraldine Auston of the B.C. Blueberry Council.

Based on the successful results on bird control achieved through co-operation between industry and local governments, B.C. is becoming a model for the rest of Canada.

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B.C.MAFF TO HOST ANOTHER AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries will host an Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) workshop in conjunction with the Pacific Agriculture Show from February 17-19, 2005. The event will build on the success of 2003's first provincewide AAC workshop at which 120 participants from 18 AACs came together to share experiences. The exact date and location will be confirmed in the late fall.

Other Web Sites Worth Checking

www.gov.bc.ca/agf

www.alc.gov.bc.ca

www.agr.gc.ca

www.bcac.bc.ca